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**October 19, 2017**

The Daily Mississippian

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# LGBT History month

RACHEL ISHEE  
NEWS EDITOR

October is LGBT History Month. The monthlong celebration observes the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues as well as the history of the gay rights and civil rights movements. The Oxford and university community is hosting events throughout the month to recognize the LGBT community.

While there are other events throughout the year that focus on the LGBT community, the organizers said they feel the month of October is ideal for university organizations to reach out to students.

“LGBTQIA+ Pride Month is in June, when school isn’t in session,” Avery Gault, a member of UM Pride Network, said. “It’s way easier to teach people about your message and history during the school year, rather than not.”

Brenna Paola, vice president of UM Pride, said several historic dates for the LGBT community fall in October, making it the perfect timing for the community’s history month.

“Oct. 11 is National Coming Out Day, which existed before LGBTQIA+ History Month was established in 1994,” Paola said. “There were also two marches of Washington for LGBTQ+ rights in 1979 and 1987. The common goal of these days were to fight for LGBTQ+ lifestyles to be legal, to be acceptable and to be embraced in American society.”

Although there are other months dedicated to different celebrations, such as LGBT Pride Month in June, LGBT History Month focuses on the

perseverance it took for the community to achieve the rights it has today.

“LGBTQIA+ History Month recognizes the community for its long battle toward visibility and acceptance,” Paola said. “The awareness of this long-term push for equality puts into perspective just how prominent the LGBTQ+ is among all communities, despite the necessity of the closet for many.”

Gault said the many people who dedicated their lives to protecting and advancing the interests of the LGBT community deserve proper recognition.

“Many people our age take for granted the seemingly widespread support of LGTBQIA+ rights among our demographic and it’s important to remember that it hasn’t always been as mainstream an idea as it is now,” Gault said.

“LGBTQIA+”, which stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual, is a way to ensure that everyone is included in the community. The “+” symbol represents the many other sexualities, sexes and genders that are not mentioned in these letters.

“I think that the LGBTQIA+ title has been expanding to make sure everyone who is not straight or cisgendered feels welcome in the community,” public policy major Wesley Craft, a member of the LGBT community said.

As this year’s LGBT History Month began, House Bill 1523, commonly

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: HAYDEN BENGE

## Wilkie, Oliphant present book on JFK and the South

TAYLOR VANCE  
STAFF WRITER

Journalists Curtis Wilkie and Thomas Oliphant presented their new book, "The Road to Camelot," on Wednesday night in the Overby Center, detailing President John F. Kennedy’s relationship with the South during his presidential campaign.

Wilkie and Oliphant, former reporters at the Boston Globe, co-authored the book because Kennedy was someone who piqued their interest as young adults. Oliphant canvassed neighborhoods for Kennedy’s campaign in southern California, and Wilkie witnessed Kennedy campaigning in Texas.

Wilkie is a native of Greenville and a graduate of Ole Miss with a degree in journalism. He has been a reporter for the Clarksdale Press Register and the Boston Globe. He worked as a legislative aide to Sen. Walter Mondale and Rep. John Brademas and is a visiting professor at the university



PHOTO BY: XINYI SONG

Curtis Wilkie and Thomas Oliphant discuss their book "The Road to Camelot" with Charles Overby at the Overby Center on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

and a fellow of the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics.

Oliphant is a native of Brooklyn, New York, and a graduate of Harvard University. He was a reporter for the Boston Globe, where he won a Pulitzer Prize. Oliphant has appeared on numerous news broadcasts

such as "CBS This Morning" and "Today."

"There’s nothing better than getting paid and going back to your childhood to try to figure something out," Oliphant said. "What we witnessed in 1960 was the birth of modern politics."

Wilkie previewed the book

by saying it was different from most nonfiction pieces because of its novel-like writing style. He said that most nonfiction pieces can be hard reads, so they decided to take a different approach to historical writing.

"Even though it’s nonfiction, we wrote it in a narrative form," Wilkie said. "We wrote

it as if we were gods and heard the conversation."

The major irony the writers discussed was Kennedy’s relationship with powerful Southern politicians called "Southern bulls." The Southern politicians had been in office for a while and had "a lot of seniority" in Congress.

Kennedy knew that if he wanted to be successful, he had to build a positive relationship with these senators. Oliphant said this is why Kennedy was "a politician and an activist — not an ideologue."

The duo also discussed the relationship between Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. Johnson had a "friendly relationship with Kennedy" at first, but they ended up being enemies toward the end of the campaign.

"Johnson didn’t hold Kennedy in contempt as much as he despised Robert Kennedy," Wilkie said. "He viewed Kennedy as a lightweight because Johnson was a master of the Senate."

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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN  
EDITORIAL STAFF:

**LANA FERGUSON**  
*editor-in-chief*  
dmeditor@gmail.com

**SLADE RAND**  
*managing editor*  
dmmanaging@gmail.com

**MAGGIE MARTIN**  
*copy chief*  
thedmcopy@gmail.com

**RACHEL ISHEE**  
**MADDIE MCGEE**  
*news editors*  
thedmnews@gmail.com

**SAM HARRES**  
**GRAYSON WEIR**  
*sports editors*  
thedmsports@gmail.com

**MARLEE CRAWFORD**  
**TAYLAR TEEL**  
*photography editors*  
thedmpotos@gmail.com

**DEVNA BOSE**  
*lifestyles editor*  
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

**JONATHAN GIBSON**  
*assistant lifestyles editor*  
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

**LIAM NIEMAN**  
*opinion editor*  
thedmopinion@gmail.com

**HAYDEN BENGE**  
**ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA**  
*design editors*  
thedmdesign@gmail.com

**EMILY HOFFMAN**  
*social media editor*

**ADVERTISING**  
**SALES MANAGER**  
Blake Hein  
dmads@olemiss.edu

**SALES ACCOUNT**  
**EXECUTIVES**  
Cameron Collins  
Sam Dethrow  
Ethan Gray  
Kathryn Hathorne

**S. GALE DENLEY**  
**STUDENT MEDIA CENTER**

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CARTOON BY: SACHI DENHAM

COLUMN

Trump right to withdraw from UNESCO



**MATTHEW DEAN**  
STAFF COLUMNIST

If you pay attention to unimportant news, then you are probably aware that President Trump is officially pulling us out of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at the end of the year.

This is nothing new — literally. We have left and rejoined UNESCO before. Ronald Reagan pulled us out, back when UNESCO had a thing for the Soviets. George W. Bush put us back in. Barack Obama even pulled U.S. funding to UNESCO in 2011. We hav-

en't had a vote on it since 2013. Hillary Clinton, who was critical of the program before, probably would have said that UNESCO needs to UNES-GO away.

However, as should be expected, some on the left have preached that this is their absolute last straw with Trump. The fact that he can just so boldly turn his back on world culture just makes their head pop Scanners-style. How else will other nations understand the importance of International Jazz Day?

Unfortunately, UNESCO is kind of like the Jimmy Kimmel of world organizations. What I mean by that is that UNESCO has lately done about as much good for anything as Kimmel has been funny. What should be an organization to promote free press, protection of cultural sites and education rights has become nothing more than a mouthpiece for anti-Israel stances and disturbing support for terrorism.

First of all, it's not UNESCO's job to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Second of all, let's take a look at the first Palestinian university UNESCO stuck its fingers in by establishing a departmental chair: the Islamic University of Gaza. This was the university used to store weapons for Hamas in 2007, unsurprisingly co-founded by one of the founders of Hamas.

The university also allegedly copied the University of Virginia's website design. If it could support this university, where was brave UNESCO to defend Charlottesville during this summer's riots?

Next, let's look at leadership. The leader from 2009 to last Friday, Irina Bokova, was a former member of the Bulgarian Communist Party. Her membership in the party ceased in 1990, only when a rule declared government officials couldn't have an official party. She literally worked

for the KGB to prep young agents. Maybe Russia has been trying to meddle with cultural sites, too.

I am certainly not always the biggest fan of the United Nations. I think it has lost its way a bit, but I do not believe it to be some evil force of anti-American scorn and hate, even if many of the member states have nothing but contempt for Western values.

On the other hand, UNESCO is the supporting character in the movie who turns on the protagonists about two-thirds of the way in, but you knew he was corrupt from the moment he appeared on the screen screen. Obama gave us a step back in the right direction by withdrawing funding. Now, it is time for Trump to take the final leap needed.

*Matthew Dean is a senior criminal justice major from Possumneck.*

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S. Gale Denley Student Media Center  
201 Bishop Hall,  
P.O. Box 1848  
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38677-1848

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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MEMBER NEWSPAPER



LGBTQ  
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referred to as the “religious freedom” bill, also happened to go into effect. The controversial bill gives Mississippi businesses the right to decline customers service based on “sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions” about marriage, extra-marital sexual relations and the definition of ‘gender.’

Many people our age take for granted the seemingly widespread support of LGTBQIA+ rights among our demographic, and it’s important to remember that it hasn’t always been as mainstream an idea as it is now.’

- Avery Gault, a member of UM Pride Network

“I think it’s important to learn about queer civil rights because queer people are still so strongly affected by discrimination,” Craft said.

He said that discrimination outside of the political sphere is something that the LGBT community is forced to endure on a daily basis.

“Everyday, LGBT youth are thrown out of their homes or forced to go to conversion ther-

apy,” he said. “Churches often humiliate and damn their LGBT members. Even gay clubs, the one place a queer person ought to feel comfortable, don’t feel quite safe anymore.”

Paola said discrimination against the LGBT community began long before HB 1523 was passed, and efforts like this October’s month of reflection help raise awareness.

“Queer history is a long series

work will be hosting a discussion named “Queer at the Polls” on next Tuesday and. One of the month’s headlining events is Code Pink on Oct. 31 at Proud Larry’s, sponsored by UM Pride Network, the Sarah Isom Center and OutOxford.

While there are plenty of events taking place in Oxford, some students ventured outside the city limits to celebrate with an even larger crowd.

“The first of this month, my

members, all people, regardless of sexuality, are welcome to participate.

“The purpose of all LGBTQ+ events is to celebrate the community, which is vast,” Paola said. “Anyone participating in these events (is), in the least, performing the action of being an ally to the community. The beauty of the queer community is that everyone has a place in it, regardless of gender or sexuality.”

JFK  
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Charles Overby, chairman of the Overby Center, said he thought the presentation was successful.

“They did a great job of peeling back the onion on some of the lesser-known things about John Kennedy,” he said.

Overby said the two journalists drew the largest crowd for any event at the Overby Center so far.

David Crews, former communications director to Gov. William Winter, said he enjoyed the presentation.

“I thought this was a very insightful conversation, and these guys have obviously done their research,” he said. “I thought it was very revealing that the connection they made between Kennedy largely mounting the first modern presidential campaigns.”

Jade Richardson, a junior journalism major from Hurlley, said she learned things she never would’ve learned without attending the talk.

“I learned about the interesting relationship between Kennedy and Johnson and how Kennedy rose to power in the Senate and as a presidential candidate,” she said. “I loved learning about his interesting relationship with Southern politicians.”



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# PODCASTS of the week

**ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA**  
DESIGN EDITOR

Hello to all of you die-hard conspiracy fanatics out there. This week, I've teamed up with the other design editor, Hayden. I promise there is a purpose behind this theme. Over the summer, I was scrolling through Twitter and came across a thread that highlighted conspiracies that were out of this world, including one about Avril Lavigne. Of course, if you read about the Mandela Effect, the Berenst(e)ain Bears and parallel universes, you suddenly become immersed in the world of conspiracy. Being that the theme this month was spookiness, we thought we would dive into all things conspiracy this week.

## THOSE CONSPIRACY GUYS



"Those Conspiracy Guys" is a weekly podcast hosted by two comedians that reveals information about famous conspiracies, true crime and murders. They focus on the wildest truths and wildest mysteries. Each episode, in one or two hours, fills listeners on corruption, conspiracy and suppression. They cover intriguing theories and unanswered questions from the John Lennon and JFK assassinations to sci-fi stories about extraterrestrial sightings. The podcast doesn't just focus on conspiracies, though. The hosts have recently released episodes focusing on missing persons and serial killers like Albert Fish. What distinguishes this podcast from other conspiracy ones is that it doesn't follow a particular formula, and the information shared is thoroughly researched and, well, believable.

PHOTO COURTESY: THOSE CONSPIRACY GUYS.COM

## MULDER WAS RIGHT: CONSPIRACY AND ALTERNATIVE FACTS



This podcast is a combination of history and conspiracy. Every Friday, the hosts unveil the mysteries of the elite, with some comedy. Themes in the past have been Denver International Airport and, of course, the Bigfoot conspiracy. The stories and the humor are what make each episode unique. A personal favorite and must-listen is the Mandela Effect episode. This theory was coined by a paranormal consultant after she and a few others were convinced Nelson Mandela died during his imprisonment in the 1980s. The episode details other examples of the effect, like the Flintstones, Looney Toons and other cartoon conspiracies. If you're witty and enjoy history and cartoons with a twist, then this might be the podcast for you.

PHOTO COURTESY: SOUNDLOUD

**HAYDEN BENGÉ**  
DESIGN EDITOR

This week, I am trespassing on Ethel's podcast territory. Continuing in the spirit of Halloween, we have each chosen a few podcasts about conspiracy theories that we have deemed worthy of your listening ears. I am honored to be teaming up with my co-design editor for this monumental column. Without further ado, here are some conspiracy theory podcast recommendations for your personal Halloween thrills, from the other half of the design desk.

## ASTONISHING LEGENDS



This podcast takes an in-depth look at popular myths, legends and mysteries in society, from the moth man of West Virginia in the 1960s to the vanishing of Amelia Earhart in 1937. Co-hosts Scott Philbrook and Forrest Burgess provide copious amounts of information and background surrounding mysterious events in history that have left people questioning reality. As they sift through the facts and details known about each case, they also analyze possible explanations for these occurrences. Warning: This is not a casual listen. Each podcast is rather lengthy because of the amount of information provided, so listening through this collection will take a dedicated listener. If you are a podcast junkie who has the time and dedication for this, I recommend giving this series a listen for some classic, eerie stories. If nothing else, you'll have a good campfire tale to tell on Halloween.

PHOTO COURTESY: ASTONISHINGLEGENDS.COM



## LIZARD PEOPLE



Katelyn Hempstead brings a comedic and lighthearted flair to this podcast series. Each episode, she invites a guest on her show to choose his or her favorite conspiracy to discuss. There is a wide variety of well-known conspiracies featured on her show, raising popular questions for discussion. Is Elvis alive? Is Stevie Wonder really blind? Is Avril Lavigne dead? After the information is presented in each case, the legitimacy of the conspiracy is debated. This is better suited for listeners who want a shorter, livelier podcast that will provide some laughs.

PHOTO COURTESY: LIZARD PEOPLE FACEBOOK

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# New album definitively deems Rapsody ‘queen of rap’

**JORDAN MAURY**  
STAFF WRITER

After years of there being one indisputable “queen of rap,” the throne now sits perpetually empty, waiting for a female emcee to prove herself worthy of the top spot. While there are a few deserving candidates, Rapsody attempts to strong-arm the title of the best from her peers with the release of her second studio album, “Laila’s Wisdom.”

In fact, Rapsody is proving to be a threat to every rapper, regardless of gender. On “Laila’s Wisdom,” the North Carolina native puts on a rapping clinic as she unleashes a barrage of bars intermixed with some dynamic storytelling and witty wordplay.

This album has more bars than Rikers Island. Instead of spending time on intricate melodies and flows, Rapsody prioritizes showcasing her superb wordplay line after line. Usually, when an artist tries to spit slick lines at such a high volume, there are duds; however, Rapsody consistently amazes on every song with her sweet delivery. Even on the tracks featuring the legendary Black Thought and the ethereal Kendrick Lamar, Rapsody manages to not only keep up



PHOTO COURTESY: HIPHOPDX

but also raise the bar for everyone involved. Pinpointing the best individual lines from this album is nearly impossible, but a definitive high comes on “You Should Know.” On this track, Rapsody proceeds to verbally abuse the beat until Busta Rhymes finally calls the match and intervenes.

While Rapsody’s bars are all lyrical jabs to the face, the most interesting aspect of her writing has to be her ability to craft stories within the music. The ultimate example is the song “Jesus Coming,” in which Rapsody raps from the perspective of a victim of overdose, a mourning parent and a deceased soldier. The scenes she creates with her words alone are so poignant that they allow the listener to step into the shoes of the fictional characters and feel their emotions. Rapsody does the smallest things to help flesh out her characters, such as using two different voices on the end of “Ridin’” in order to create dialogue between a cop and a host at a party.

In terms of production, “Laila’s Wisdom” may be one of the most polished rap albums this year. Listening to the project is one smooth experience that never makes you question the sequencing of the songs. The production also does a great job of covering up Rapsody’s one flaw, which is her inability to create compelling hooks. The producers of the album accomplish this by incorporating a myriad of beat switches into the songs to keep things from becoming stagnant. For

instance, on “Chrome (Like Ooh),” the instrumental abandons its metallic banging sound midway through the song and adopts a smoother identity that gives Rapsody’s verses some contrast.

Although the album makes use of a number of samples, the apex has to be the sample used on “Jesus Coming.” The sorrowful sample interrupts Rapsody repeatedly in order to remind the listener that there is no time left. The way that Rapsody raps around these interruptions shows off her creativity as she uses the sample to finish her sentences, voice a character in her story, and reinforce her thoughts.

Not only is the production immaculate but so are the featured artists. Kendrick Lamar gives Rapsody her money’s worth by spazzing with multiple flows on “Power.” Black Thought is equally impressive on “Nobody” as he builds a verse laden with pristine rhyme schemes. Even though Busta Rhymes’ verse is nowhere near as flashy as the former and latter, he laces an already dreamy instrumental with tender words of affection. However, the real MVPs may be Anderson .Paak and BJ The Chicago Kid, who both appear on two songs each. The two bring the hooks on songs like “Knock On My Door” and “OooWee” that help break up all the rapping on the album.

“Laila’s Wisdom” is truly Rapsody’s coming-out party. For 14 songs, she serves spine-tingling bars while feeding the listener ample amounts

of substance. Her remarkable skill has flown under for too long. Rapsody is one of the

best the genre has to offer and should not be pigeonholed by her gender.



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# Muscadine Bloodline to liven up Oxford once again

HOLLY HICKS  
STAFF WRITER

Muscadine Bloodline, a duo hailing from Mobile, Alabama, will step foot into Mississippi once again to liven the Oxford Square streets with country music.

Gary Stanton and Charlie Muncaster formed Muscadine Bloodline in early 2016. This self-proclaimed “unapologetically Alabama” band has been turning heads in Nashville and the country music scene.

Darby Johnson, a senior journalism major and coast native, will be going to the duo’s show tonight for the second time this year.

“It’s just really nice to hear Muscadine Bloodline perform,” Johnson said. “They have played in Oxford before, and a friend invited me to go with them earlier this year. Ever since I heard them live, I have



PHOTO COURTESY: WIDE OPEN COUNTRY

been a fan.”

This will not be the first time the band has played in Oxford. In February earlier this year, it performed at

The Lyric Oxford, where it will be return tonight.

Darby Johnson thinks that Muscadine Bloodline has really begun to take off and is quickly becoming a band more of her friends listen to. Johnson explains that she’s seen three friends post to their social media accounts regarding the band in the last two days.

“Their sounds and lyrics remind me of home. I think Muscadine Bloodline creates songs that everyone can find relatable, to a certain degree,” she said.

Both Stanton and Muncaster of Muscadine Bloodline have an extensive, successful musical background. They both have played guitar since they were children, and they have perfected their techniques with age.

Stanton began perform-

ing and singing at different church groups growing up. Once he was comfortable with a crowd, he dabbled in various genres of music. At a point in his life, he was a front man for a rock and roll group and then aspired to be a rapper.

Stanton attended the University of Southern Mississippi and majored in entertainment industry management. He had a dream of moving to Nashville to further his career, but it wasn’t until he wrote a song that went viral on Facebook that he knew that being a songwriter was something he had a niche in.

Around 2013, Stanton debuted his EP titled “The American Dream” and later formed a band called Somethin’ Sweet. Somethin’ Sweet played throughout Mississippi in small bars

and began headlining fraternity gigs. Once he graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi, he made the move to Nashville, where he and Muncaster formed Muscadine Bloodline.

Muncaster found his passion for music when he sang in the choir at 12 years old. As he grew older, he began performing solo and participated in the Alabama All-State Choir until he graduated from high school.

Muncaster found his way to Auburn, Alabama, and started The Charlie Muncaster Band, performing in local bars throughout Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. In 2015, he released his first EP, “Alabama Summer Night,” which earned him the opportunity to open for Brad Paisley, Cole Swindell and Corey Smith.

Ryan Harvey, an Oxonian who attends as many concerts as he can at The Lyric Oxford, is excited to see Muscadine Bloodline for his first time.

“I haven’t been able to see them yet, but I’ve always been a country music buff. They’re starting to pick up steam in Nashville and I’m always open to listening to new artists,” Harvey said. “I have begun to listen to them on my own to prepare for the concert, and I have to admit that this group has the potential to make it big.”

Muscadine Bloodline will be performing at 9 p.m. at The Lyric Oxford.

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ACROSS

1 "Evil Woman" grp.  
4 Make a speech  
9 Intoxicate  
14 Pirate liquor  
15 Hawaiian state birds  
16 Part of UHF  
17 Poverty  
19 Ministers to  
20 Goad  
21 In unison  
23 Take flight  
24 Beach, in Baja  
27 Ball girls  
30 Parched  
32 Lunar New Year  
33 Cultivar of an edible stem  
37 Academy award  
39 Artistic movement  
eschewing fantasy  
40 Cassock  
42 Composer Berg  
43 Kerplow maker  
44 Classical beginning  
45 Entering  
48 Makes mistakes  
50 Dress for show  
51 La \_\_\_ Tar Pits  
55 Harden  
57 Garden intruders

58 In a tumultuous state  
60 Indifferent  
64 Two-door car  
65 \_\_\_ bleu!  
66 Judge Lance  
67 We're off \_\_\_ the Wizard  
68 Hawke of Hollywood  
69 Cornerstone abbr.

DOWN

1 Sea eagles  
2 Hasta \_\_\_  
3 Last Greek letter  
4 Getting \_\_\_ years (aging)  
5 Stimp's pal  
6 Hydrocarbon suffix  
7 Your, to Yves  
8 Compositions  
9 Osso\_\_\_  
10 African antelope  
11 Tram  
12 Metal-bearing mineral  
13 Univ. aides  
18 Type of mouse  
22 Took a chair  
24 Greek letters  
25 Neeson of "Rob Roy"  
26 Rainbow shape  
28 Game of chance  
29 Throat bug

SOLUTION TO 10.18.2017 PUZZLE

M	A	L	L	G	R	A	C	E	T	E	L				
I	L	I	A	A	C	C	O	S	T	E	T	A			
N	U	M	I	S	M	A	T	I	C	S	O	H	M		
U	M	B	R	A			N	U	A	N	C	E			
E	N	E	H	A	T	E	D	R	E	A	R	Y			
T	A	R	R	A	G	O	N	O	S	T	L	E	R		
				A	R	E	T	O			L	A	S		
				C	R	E	A	S	E		R	E	T	A	I
C	H	E				S	A	F	A	R	I				
H	A	L	A				R	E	S	E	R	V	E	D	
O	P	E	R	A	S		C	O	E	N		E	R	E	
				E	V	E	N	S			D	V	I	N	G
B	R	A		C	I	R	C	U	M	S	O	L	A	R	
O	N			E	S	T	A	T	E		R	E	N	E	
O	N	T			T	O	W	E	R		E	D	I	E	

30 Singer Lopez  
31 Juvenescent  
33 Stretch the neck  
34 Sniggler  
35 Industrious  
36 Guido's high note  
38 Avg.  
40 Spahn teammate  
41 Sty cry  
43 Lyon king  
46 "Car Talk" aier  
47 Lubricant  
49 Take potshots

51 Yellow and black insect  
52 Get back to even  
53 Reviews and corrects  
54 Horse race venue in England  
56 Peter Fonda role  
57 At what time  
58 \_\_\_ now!  
59 You stink!  
61 Bit of butter  
62 Rhine wine  
63 Musical syllable

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			1	3			6		8
			7						
6	5			1					
	3				4				9
		6	5		9	1			
4			2					7	
				9			8	3	
						4			
5		3			6	7			

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

INSANE

1	6	7	9	2	4	3	8	5
5	9	4	1	3	8	2	7	6
3	8	2	5	9	7	4	9	1
9	7	5	3	8	2	6	1	4
4	3	1	6	7	5	9	2	8
9	2	8	4	9	1	5	3	7
7	4	3	2	1	6	8	5	9
2	1	6	8	5	9	7	4	3
8	5	9	7	4	3	1	2	6



# Crucial weekend for soccer kicks off Thursday night

MAGGIE CROUCH  
STAFF WRITER

The No. 25 Ole Miss women's soccer team will take on another top 25 conference competitor Thursday night, hosting the No. 18 Auburn Tigers.

With eight conference games under their belt and half of those ending in a loss, the Rebels are itching for another win to solidify their spot in the SEC Tournament at Orange Beach, Alabama, later this fall. Playing against the Tigers, who have a conference record of 3-1-2 this season, will definitely put the Rebels to the test.

Auburn's only conference loss came to the Arkansas Razorbacks, whom Ole Miss defeated earlier this season. However, quality wins over Florida and Texas A&M, two teams that defeated Ole Miss, counteract the "transitive property" loss. To further solidify their program's success, the Tigers earned two quality wins last week.

"They are coming off a great week where they beat their rival Alabama and a top 10 Florida team," coach Matt Mott said earlier in the week. "I have a lot of respect for those guys."

Ole Miss, on the other hand, suffered a heartbreaking loss to Texas A&M last Friday night. In a game that remained scoreless until the last three minutes, the Aggies' ball eventually found the net and took the 1-0 victory. Despite letting up the game's only goal, goalkeeper Marnie Merritt was out-



FILE PHOTO

Channing Foster moves past a defender during the 4-1 win against LSU earlier this season.

standing in the net, making a career-high 10 saves.

"I was very proud of the way my team fought and battled," Mott said. "It was disappointing that we didn't get a result, and I think a draw would have been fair, but we certainly had our chances to win."

Currently, the Tigers sit fifth in the SEC standings, while the Rebels claim the eighth-place spot, but should history repeat itself, Thursday's game will come down to the wire. The all-time series record stands in

a deadlock at 11-11-2, but Ole Miss has claimed the last three matches and will hope to make it a fourth.

To add another layer to the rivalry between the Rebels and the Tigers, Karen Hoppa, head coach at Auburn, was Mott's mentor for 11 years.

"Obviously, I think she's a pretty darn good coach," Mott said. "She has her team

ready, and they are playing great at the right time of year."

After battling under the lights Thursday, Ole Miss will face Mississippi State over the weekend. Though the Bulldogs are 1-4-2 in the conference on the year and the Rebels have won the

last three meetings between the two teams, the Magnolia State rivalry never fails to play close.

"It will be another tough task for us on Sunday," Mott said. "But, again, I like where our team is. We are motivated and understand we have three big games left, two at home and one down in Starkville."

Kickoff for the game against Auburn is at 7 p.m. in Oxford, with a quick turnaround for the Rebels, who will head to Starkville for a 4 p.m. kickoff Sunday.

"That will be a difficult game for us on Thursday, but one our girls are definitely looking forward to," Mott said. "We are certainly motivated for Thursday night and to get back to it, and it will be another tough task for us on Sunday."

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# Matt Luke motivates Rebels before rivalry game

**BILLY SCHUERMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

As they continue to prepare for LSU, the Rebels face a common struggle for programs across the country this time of year — keeping focus and grinding through the everyday routine.

“I think it’s always a challenge as you get toward week seven or week eight. You know the monotony of practice,” head coach Matt Luke said. “But having these big SEC games really helps with their focus and getting prepared. Having momentum and home-field advantage and all that stuff is a part of it, but the preparation every day is the most important in creating good practice habits.”

Beyond remaining true to and focused on daily practice routines, Ole Miss’ defense will have its hands full getting ready for the high-power offense the Tigers bring with them to Oxford.

“The hard part is that it’s hard to simulate it in practice,” Luke said. “The speed and how fast it gets on you (is hard to replicate).”

Specifically, the focus has been on preseason Heisman trophy candidate running back Derrius Guice. While



FILE PHOTO

Head coach Matt Luke speaks at a press conference Monday.

simulating the experience of playing against such a versatile player like Guice is difficult, having played against good running backs already this season is something Luke hopes will help.

“The positive thing is that in this league you face very, very good backs, and he’s another one,” Luke said. “He’s very talented and playing several very good running backs up to this point. Hopefully (the

players) kind of have the feel for what it’s like.”

Offensively, the point of emphasis is cleaning up the little things. Although quarterback Shea Patterson, the prolific receiving corps and running back Jordan Wilkins combined to score 57 points against Vanderbilt, the group is still looking to improve and fix the mistakes that were made.

“It’s about taking another

step,” Luke said. “The goal is for the team that plays Saturday night (against LSU) to be able to beat the team that played against Vanderbilt and have all these young guys get one game better.”

Part of moving forward and getting better, Luke said, includes finding ways to motivate the team. After two tough losses in the state of Alabama, the game against Vanderbilt was a stepping

stone in the right direction, but there is still more to be done.

“This is a young team, and I want to be careful and just make sure they go get better each week and take the steps to get there,” he said. “I think motivation is what everyone looks for, especially as you get toward the end of the season, motivation ends up being a big thing.”

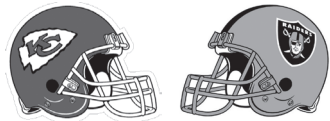
There is a long and storied past between the two teams that dates back 106 games, and Luke is trying to use the history of the rivalry to motivate players. Having played in the game himself, he is no stranger to what it means to the university, the fanbase and the players. This year’s matchup, however, brings an interesting twist with the return of former Ole Miss/current LSU head coach Ed Orgeron to Oxford.

“I think it’s important for them to know the history of this rivalry,” Luke said. “More so than just the coaches but the history of all the great games between Ole Miss and LSU, and I think that’s important for everyone to know.”

Ole Miss and LSU will duke it out for the 107th time at 6:15 p.m. Saturday. The game will air on ESPN.

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